

The Health Department and not industry or labor unions must assume the responsibility for requiring adequate treatment of the known, untreated, or inadequately treated syphilitic industrial worker. Only those workers who are not amendable to, or who do not respond satisfactorily to adequate treatment, should be placed in new occupations commensurate with their physical condition. Venereal disease case finding and case holding can be best managed by the Health Department as an unbiased official agency legally responsible for these activities.

Failure of the employee to submit to voluntary pre-employment blood tests under this industrial venereal disease control program will in no way jeopardize that person's chances of employment. The program, with the assistance of management and labor unions, will be put into practice in some of the large and small industrial plants under the direction of the Division of Venereal Diseases of the City and County of San Francisco Department of Public Health.

From the start of this program labor has cooperated fully with the local health agency. The establishment of this program was made possible by the assistance of the California Social Hygiene Association, the cooperation of union officials, and the efforts of members of the Division of Venereal Diseases.

Concerning Archives in re: Naval Officers:

My dear Dr. Kress:—The National Naval Medical Center at Bethesda, Maryland, is endeavoring to collect for its archives a complete set of commissions issued to Naval medical officers, and signed by past Presidents of the United States.

There is a small nidus now at the Center and it is hoped to be able to build this up to completion. Through the Navy Department Library and the National Archives a few more have been located. I am wondering whether you would care to insert a small item in your journal to this effect, with the idea that various libraries or individuals may have in their possession such old commissions and would be willing to turn them over to the Center. If such are found and the owners are so generous, there could be no more fitting enshrinement of them than their use for this purpose.

Any assistance that you and CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE can extend will be greatly appreciated by the Surgeon General.

With best regards.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) ROBERT C. RANDELL,
Commander, M.C., U.S.N.R.,
Division of Publications.

Concerning an Expression of Thanks to "California and Western Medicine":

(COPY)

THE PUBLIC HEALTH LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA
Organized to Protect the Public Health by the
Preservation of Modern Scientific Medicine,
Dentistry and Nursing

563 Chamber of Commerce Bldg.

Los Angeles 15, California, May 11, 1944.

Dear Doctor Kress:—At the quarterly meeting of the Council of the Southern District of The Public Health League of California, held on May 4th, I was instructed to express to you the thanks of this group for the very valuable assistance you have given the League through your editorials in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE.

Your informative and forceful editorials have served to keep before the members of the medical profession the importance of the work the League is doing. I am certain every member appreciates this most helpful assistance.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) CHAS. A. REAGAN, D. D. S., Secretary.

Concerning Donors at Blood Banks:

(COPY)

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Department of Public Health

To the Editor:—On March 31, 1944, there was reported a case of malaria (tertian) in M.S., age 60, patient of a local hospital, with the onset date given as March 26, 1944.

This case is of interest as the patient was hospitalized because of a purpuragic condition with hemorrhages. The patient received 50 c.c. of whole blood intramuscularly on March 12. The donor was a friend. No tests were performed on the donor's blood, though in good health and the patient had a positive Wassermann.

On March 26 the patient became ill with chills and fever and a diagnosis of malaria (tertian) was made. An investigation then revealed that the donor had been hospitalized on March 16, 1944, in a Naval Hospital suffering from malaria. Investigation reveals that the donor had malaria one year ago but the attack was so mild it had been forgotten.

This case brings up another of the increasing problems due to war conditions. Our population may be endangered by individuals returning from foreign lands and suffering from various diseases such as malaria. Some of these individuals have recovered completely while others are still infected, though sub-clinical at the moment.

At the present time it is customary for the blood of a donor to be tested only for syphilitic infection. Tests must soon be perfected which will reveal the presence of tropical diseases such as malaria, or blood donors must be limited to residents of uninfected areas.

The complement fixation test for malaria might well for practical purposes be used at the blood banks.

The above circumstances should be drawn to the attention of the practicing physicians in the United States, and those in charge of laboratories and particularly those supervising blood banks using whole blood.

J. C. GEIGER, M. D.

Director of Public Health.

Concerning Treatment of Eyes by Barbers:

(COPY)

Office of Attorney General Robert W. Kenny

Opinion NS5411

If a barber puts eye tonic drops in human eyes with or without consent he is doing something not permitted under his license, Attorney General Robert W. Kenny stated on May 24, in an opinion.

Treatment of the human eye, either with medicines or surgery, Kenny stated, was limited by law to physicians and surgeons.

He had been advised that it was the practice of manufacturers of eye tonics to supply barber shops with their products free of charge.

Kenny held that many eye tonics were drugs under California law, and a barber administering them may be guilty of practicing medicine without a license.

"The use of any product classified as a drug," Kenny stated, "by those not qualified to administer it, could in certain instances lead to dangerous results. Such use of eye drops containing drugs in barber shops may pass along a dangerous infection to other patrons through the use of such a tonic on one infected individual."

His opinion was requested by C. E. Rynearson, Secretary of the California State Board of Barber Examiners and was prepared by Deputy Attorney General Carl W. Wynkoop.